



# *16th Korea-America Student Conference*

## *2022 Applicant Guide*



# *About the Conference*

*A month-long academic, cultural interchange and professional networking program*

## *When*

The month of July, 2023

## *Sites*

Washington, DC, Seoul, and Boryeong

## *Who*

Up to 12 Korean and 12 American Delegates

## *Purpose*

To promote peace by furthering mutual understanding, friendship, and trust through international student interchange

## *How to Apply*

Complete your [application](#) by January 31st, 2023 to be considered for the 16th Korea-America Student Conference!



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## ABOUT ISC

*To promote peace by furthering mutual understanding, friendship and trust through international student interchange.*

International Student Conferences, Inc. (ISC) is a non-profit organization incorporated in Washington, DC. It facilitates three academic and cultural interchange programs organized by university students in the U.S., Japan, and Korea: the China-America Student Conference (ChASC), the Korea-America Student Conference (KASC) and the Japan-America Student Conference (JASC). Beginning in 1934, JASC is the first and oldest exchange between the two countries that is conceived and carried out by university students. Patterned after the JASC model of a student-run Conference, the first KASC launched in 2008 and the first ChASC launched in winter 2020.

ISC programs provide an intensive, up-to one-month experience in which equal numbers of students from the U.S. and a partner country live, gather, work, and study together in a conference-like setting.

What makes ISC programs unique is that, ever since its founding in 1934, ISC Conferences are entirely planned and administered by the students themselves. The students host discussion groups, field trips, seminars, and distinguished speakers, working toward the goals of better understanding each other, forming friendships, gaining trust, and fostering international peace during their lifetimes.

Every ISC gathering is characterized by full and frank discussions, undertaken with a spirit of understanding each other's point of view.

# ABOUT KASC 16

The Korea-America Student Conference (KASC) is a month-long academic and cultural interchange program that brings together an equal number of students representing the United States of America and South Korea for off-the-record discussions of the future of the bilateral relationship. The 16th Korea-America Conference will be centered around the theme **"Beyond Barriers: Advancing international competency through intercultural exchange."**

The program is **student-run** and **student-led**, allowing for full and frank conversations to occur between emerging young leaders from both countries. Over the course of this intensive and immersive exercise in people-to-people diplomacy, participants will form powerful friendships that will go on to serve as bridges across the Pacific for generations to come.

By empowering and inspiring the next generation of US-Asia leaders to value cooperation and dialogue, KASC aims to instill in participants a lifelong dedication to the pursuit of peace, openness, and regional stability.

The 16th KASC will hold a **3-day virtual orientation** and **three weeks of in-person programming and travel in the month of July**. Students will participate in academic discussions and social events with a group of 24 students, the Executive Committee, International Student Conferences Inc. (ISC), alumni, and guest speakers on special topics. **The conference requires a participation fee of \$3500.**



# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

2023 KOREA-AMERICA STUDENT CONFERENCE



Yonguk Kwon  
*[Korean Chair]*



Lindsay Weinmann  
*[American Chair]*



Yosep Park  
*[Korean Treasurer  
& Marketing Chair]*



Han Wool Jung  
*[American Treasurer  
& Recruitment Chair]*



# KASC PROGRAMMING

*Planning for additional activities is currently underway. To give you a sense of what to expect, please review the schedule below*

## *July 2023 Virtual Orientation and In-Person Conference in Washington D.C. and Seoul*

Accepted Delegates will meet online with the Executive Committee in late June to early July for a virtual Orientation.

Planned topics include what to pack, airport logistics, lodging information, and general group norms. We will also be getting to know each other through fun icebreaker activities!

The in-person Conference will begin in Washington D.C. with a tentative date of July 11th. The American and Korean Delegates will attend lectures on US-ROK relations, travel around the nation's capital, and engage in lively discussions on US-ROK relations.

The second half of the Conference will take place in Seoul, South Korea. The Delegation will depart the D.C. area in mid-July and spend the final week in Korea's capital city. Delegates will participate in cultural activities, sightseeing, and travel to the city of Boryeong for additional programming. The Conference will end with a Final Forum presentation by each RT group and the Delegation will part ways on July 29th to return home.



# ROUNDTABLE TOPICS

An indispensable component of all KASC gatherings are the Roundtables (RTs). During the Conference, delegates conduct original, peer-reviewed research in tight-knit academic cohorts. Each RT is made up of an equal number of Korean and American delegates to ensure a balanced exchange of cultural perspectives. Through these intensive discussions, participants gain a more nuanced understanding of their international counterparts and actively develop real world policy solutions in the context of the U.S.-ROK relationship. Final research will then be presented to an audience during the Final Forum.

The RT topics for the 16th Korea-America Conference are:

- *Education and Identity*
- *Technology and International Security*
- *Climate Initiatives for Sustainable Development*
- *International Development Cooperation*



# EDUCATION AND IDENTITY

*Roundtable Leader - Lindsay Weinmann*

The right to education is highly emphasized in both Korea and the United States, whether it had been rooted in the values of Confucianism or gateways to the American Dream. Therefore, the histories of education in both countries are rich in complexity and notably shape modern society today. Some might even argue that because of this, education is the key to solving some of the most unsettling crises within domestic and international systems!

Here delegates will investigate the contents, methods, and values of education in Korea and the United States, and how these factors affect our careers and daily lives.

*Questions to consider:*

- *What are some pressing challenges of students today? How does education and identity intertwine in a young child/adult's life?*
- *What is the role of education in foreign policy and cross-cultural relationships?*



# TECHNOLOGY AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

*Roundtable Leader - Han Wool Jung*

With the rise of globalization, rapid development of technology is changing the landscape of domestic and international security as the impact of technology development is far less localized. Geopolitical tensions are rising and nations around the globe increasingly view technology as central to national security. Indeed, technology is a double-edged sword. It brings safety to the people and enhances the national defense system, but concurrently, it is developed into destructive weapons used in wars. AI (Artificial Intelligence), autonomous robots, and UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) operations continue to mature, and even social media can be weaponized to spread disinformation and threaten democratic values.

This Roundtable Topic aims to explore the altering political and security landscapes through technology in both countries.

*Questions to consider:*

- *How does social media impact democracy in both countries?*
- *What are the common efforts that both governments are making in order to maintain a healthy digital environment? (Remember, national security does not only refer to military activities, but also involves democratic values).*



# CLIMATE INITIATIVES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

*Roundtable Leader - Yong Uk Kwon*

The current climate crisis on Earth is a very serious situation. The major causes of large fires, droughts, forest fires, and floods in many countries in recent years are also due to the climate crisis. For instance, studies show that the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic is partially due to climate change and human activities. As the Earth's temperature rose, tropical bats moved their habitats on a large scale to southern China. Bats are commonly known carriers for various diseases, such as the coronavirus. So, as humans developed the habitats of bats that were deep in the forest, they overlapped and spread to pandemics.

This roundtable will discuss how individuals and governments can make efforts to respond to the climate crisis and how they can lead to a large-scale solution. Furthermore, we aim to establish an initiative to create a carbon-neutral society by 2050, discussing what efforts should be made at the corporate and national levels.

*Questions to consider:*

- *What are the main causes of the climate crisis?*
- *What are the results of the climate crisis?*
- *How will the Paris Agreement change our society in future?*



# INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

*Roundtable Leader - Yosep Park*

European countries, the United States, and Canada came together in 1961 and established the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, also known as OECD. It aims to stimulate economic growth and raise standard of living with emphasis on providing economic assistance to reduce poverty and dispatching experts in various fields to developing nations.

However, despite massive aids and efforts the OECD poured in, they continue to receive criticisms on the effectiveness of international aid. There are still over 600 million people living under the extreme poverty line.

In this roundtable, we will look into general concepts of international development cooperation and further discuss the reasons for continued extreme poverty in different regions, and ways we can actively contribute to international development.

*Questions to consider:*

- *What is ODA?*
- *Do you think international aid is really efficient?*
- *What are the international institutes for development cooperation?*



# ELIGIBILITY

KASC 16 seeks a diverse delegation to represent the academically accomplished student populations of the United States and South Korea. Undergraduate, graduate, and recently graduated students are encouraged to apply.

KASC welcomes applications from students of all academic majors to foster a deeper, interdisciplinary exchange. As the official language of the conference is English, no prior experience in Korean language or Korean Studies is required. KASC does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, age, religion, marital status or sexual orientation.

Please note that applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. Applicants will be notified within two weeks of a completed application on whether they have been selected for an interview.

Applicants must either be enrolled in university and be in good academic standing with their institution at the time of application or have graduated within the last two years

Those interested in serving as a member of the KASC delegation should be comfortable with actively contributing to scholarly discussions conducted entirely in English.



# APPLICATION

*Applicants can turn in their application and prepared materials written in either English or Korean. However, KASC 16 interviews and the conference itself will be held in English.*

Apply by January 31st by visiting our [online application](#).

The application requires:

- Name and Contact Information
- University Transcript (*official or unofficial*)
- Resume/CV
- Optional Documents (*Letters of Recommendation, etc.*)

There are also two short response prompts:

- **Why are you interested in the 16th Korea-America Student Conference?** (*300 words max.*)
- **Please select your top two Roundtable topic preferences. In the space below, please identify your first and second choice and explain your reasons for interest in those topics.** (*400 words maximum*)

*\*The Executive Committee recommends drafting your short responses in a separate document, and then copying and pasting them into the application once you are finished.*



# APPLICATION

**Submit a \$20 application fee through PayPal or check:**

- Payment information will be included at the end of the application. Please be sure to email a copy of your payment receipt to [kasc@iscdc.org](mailto:kasc@iscdc.org).

*\*Applicants can have their application fee waived by these ways:*

- 1. If applicants apply by December 1st, they will automatically have their application fee waived.*
- 2. If applicants apply during December or January, and attend an info session, then they can have their application fee waived with a KASC “promo” code.*

**Once you submit your application:**

Please add [info@iscdc.org](mailto:info@iscdc.org) to your contact list. You will receive an email from [info@iscdc.org](mailto:info@iscdc.org) once your application has been received. Within two weeks, you will hear from the 16th KASC Executive Committee regarding your application status. At this time, you may also be contacted by an EC member for a short Zoom interview.

Should you have any questions, please email KASC's Executive Committee Member Han Wool Jung:  
**[hanwooljung.kasc16@gmail.com](mailto:hanwooljung.kasc16@gmail.com)**



# FAQs

*This section covers some of the most relevant information for applicants and accepted Delegates.*

## **Q: Does ISC or KASC provide any financial aid?**

While ISC does provide guidance and fundraising advice to students, ISC does not directly provide any scholarships at this time. For a list of potential scholarships, please visit <http://iscdc.org/scholarships/>

## **Q: What is the participation fee, and what does it cover?**

### **KASC (*American Delegates*): \$3,500**

This fee covers online programming, two international flights, ground transportation during the In-Person Conference, accommodations, (some) meals, and programming. Delegates are responsible for personal expenses (extra food, gifts, etc.), as well as domestic transportation to and from Washington, D.C. (specific airport TBD).

### **KASC (*Korean Delegates*): \$3,500**

This fee covers online programming costs, two international flights, ground transportation during the in-person conference, accommodations, (some) meals, and programming. Delegates are responsible for personal expenses (extra food, gifts, etc.) and for domestic transportation to and from Seoul or Boryeong at the end of the conference.



# FAQs

## **Q: What impact has COVID-19 had on KASC?**

Due to the pandemic, KASC has been held virtually over the past three years. This will be the first year since the pandemic that KASC will be held almost entirely in-person! With just three days of virtual orientation, the remainder of the Conference will be held in-person over the course of two and a half weeks spent between the US and South Korea.

The Delegation's safety is our priority, therefore KASC and ISC will be actively monitoring the situation in both countries throughout the Conference. In the event of an outbreak, we will follow CDC guidelines as stated at the time of the Conference.

Needless to say, we are so excited to welcome Delegates back in-person this summer!

## **Q: How are Executive Committee Members Selected?**

EC elections will occur at the end of each Conference, during which any of the American and Korean delegates can choose to nominate themselves to run for one EC position and be elected by their peers.

## **Q: Do I have to know Korean to apply?**

No. The official Conference language is English.



# CONTACT



To stay up-to-date please visit our Instagram Page:  
[https://www.instagram.com/kasc\\_usofficial/](https://www.instagram.com/kasc_usofficial/)



To learn more about KASC and ISC, please visit  
our website at [www.iscdc.org](http://www.iscdc.org).



For additional information or questions, please  
contact KASC's student-led Executive Committee  
at [hanwooljung.kasc16@gmail.com](mailto:hanwooljung.kasc16@gmail.com)

